

General Plan Update Early Community Outreach Meeting Summary of Issues and Ideas

This list of comments was gathered from the input received at 18 meetings conducted between February 16 and April 18. Additional meetings are being held through the end of April. A total of approximately 300 persons have attended the meetings to-date. The comments listed are responses to three standard questions asked at each meeting. A number of responses to questions One and Two were heard at multiple meetings, indicating they represent a common sentiment or theme in the community. These are listed first under the respective question. Other than this distinction, the order of the comments does not represent any priority

Question 1 - What do you like about living in, working in and visiting San Jose?

Theme Comments

- Green hills, nearby Open-Space –easily assessable
- Historical Resources
- Big City/Small town feel
- Cultural Diversity
- Neighborhoods
- Urban downtown – restaurants, entertainment, Arts, professional sports – walk able
- Weather
- Safe community
- Community involvement, volunteerism
- Easy access to regional attractions
- Growing inclusiveness of community in City government
- New City facilities: parks, libraries, Community centers
- Trees, urban forests, restaurants
- Good place to raise a family
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Other Comments

- Higher density residential near transit
- Community Policing
- National environmental leader
- Maintain Urban Growth Boundary
- Affordable Housing
- Higher Education
- Support for homeless
- Airport
- Schools
- Expanding public transit system

Question 2 - How would you like to see San Jose change in the next 20 -30 years?

Theme Comments

- Expand transit options (BART, Light Rail, taxis, bike lane trails) – provide linkage
- Expand Green policies – energy, buildings – Provide
- Improve pedestrian facilities to inspire walk able communities, including safety (school kids, health, reduce auto use)
- Finish trail system and connections
- Expand and diversify parks, sports fields (e.g., cricket)

Other Comments

- Infill densities compatible with neighborhoods
- Improve public transit to support infill
- Expand Downtown activities (more free events)
- Expand Police staffing for future growth
- Expand public art - along Guadalupe River Park
- Don't reduce General Plan standards for parks,
- Expand community gathering opportunities (ethnic, cultural, social)
- Expand services to aging population
- Plan new Community facility expansion based on ability to staff them
- Focus on urban infill department
- Eliminate South Almaden Valley Urban Reserve, expand the Greenbelt
- Preserve farm land, organic farms, provide food to schools
- Meet Mayor's Green challenge – LEED Certificate
- Improve environmental – friendly City – less auto use (less transportation expansion), reduce parking requirements, on-site storm water treatment, increased pervious surfaces, reduce energy use
- Create measurable goals (e.g., zero waste)
- Encourage green economic development
- Reduce red tape in Development Review process
- Create a form-based Zoning Code consistent with the General Plan – simplify development process
- Get drugs and gangs out of neighborhoods and parks
- Respect adopted Neighborhood (SNI) Plans
- Need more Mom and Pop stores
- Need health services Downtown
- Need more fitness programs in schools
- Downtown should include housing for all incomes, need housing for service employees
- Expand job opportunities for residents
- Strengthen neighborhood conservation policies
- Enhance Neighborhood Business Districts
- Better mitigation of infill development traffic impacts
- Strengthen historic preservation
- Improve storm water treatment techniques
- Strengthen Riparian Corridor requirements
- Control industrial land conversion
- Budget for maintenance of new facilities
- More distinctive, vibrant architecture and signage – visual experience Downtown
- Connect job centers – North San Jose, Downtown, Coyote Valley

Question 2 - How would you like to see San Jose change in the next 20 -30 years?, cont.

- Strengthen implementation policies of General Plan
- Cleaner City of San Jose
- Expand Youth programs
- Eliminate overcrowding in neighborhoods/housing
- Retain high-tech businesses
- Control monster houses that don't match surrounding neighborhood
- Intensify housing and retail at transit stations
- City/School partnerships for improved facilities and program funding
- Involve neighborhoods in process of defining where new development will occur
- Maintain jobs/housing balance in San Jose
- Enhance image of public transit (much more accepted in other big cities)
- Encourage technological alternatives to commuting to work

Question 3 - What kind of Community outreach and communication is most useful/effective?

- Telephone, mail survey
- Website input
- Community events (BBQ)
- Blog/Podcast
- Non-web outreach – mail, school flyers, door hangers, cable TV
- Get youth involvement – their future
- Community and ethnic newspaper
- Involve City Council offices/City Managers
- County Health
- Booths @ events
- Density examples
- NAC's
- E-mail lists
- Advanced notice for all meetings
- Complete Community loop – explain that City did with Community input
- Reach out to parts of Community not active
- Ensure sustainable outreach/Community process
- Provide community education on planning basics
- Information at libraries, community centers, on buses/bus stations
- Radio Public Service Announcements – multi-lingual
- Neighborhood E-mail list services
- Develop school activities/involvement
- Outreach to ethnic organizations
- Outreach involvement/technical support from major corporations that support community involvement (Adobe, CISCO, IBM)
- Have food at community events
- Make community events fun and entertaining
- Engage high school students – environmental clubs
- Reach out to both youth and seniors
- Outreach to ethnic communities through neighborhood retail/commercial outlets